

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

08 Civ. 4989

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TRUSTEES OF THE LOCAL 475 PENSION FUND,

Plaintiff,

-against-

CHRISTOPHER FLORIN,

Defendant.  
-----X

**COMPLAINT**

FILED  
U.S. DISTRICT COURT  
S.D. OF N.Y. W.D.  
JUL 1 2008

Plaintiff, Trustees of the Local 475 Pension Fund by their attorneys Barnes,  
Iaccarino, Virginia, Ambinder & Shepherd, PLLC allege as follows:

**JUDGE KARAS**

**JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

1. This action is based on the provisions of Section 502(a)(3) and Section 515 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act, as amended (hereinafter referred to as "ERISA") (29 U.S.C. Section 1132(a)(3)).

2. Jurisdiction is conferred upon this Court by Section 301 of the Taft-Hartley Act (29 U.S.C. Section 185) and Sections 502(e)(1) and 502(f) of ERISA (29 U.S.C. Sections 1132(e)(1) and 1132(f)); and derivative jurisdiction is contained in 28 U.S.C. Sections 1331.

3. Venue properly lies in this District under the provisions of 502(e)(2) of ERISA (29 U.S.C. Section 1132(e)(2)) and 28 U.S.C. Section 1391(b).

4. This action is brought by the respective Trustees of the Funds in their fiduciary capacities for monetary damages and other equitable relief under ERISA and for unjust enrichment for the wrongful retention of pension funds.

**PARTIES**

5. The Plaintiff Trustees are, at all relevant times, the fiduciaries of jointly administered multi-employer, labor management trust funds as defined by Section 3(21)(A)

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and Section 502(a)(3) of ERISA (29 U.S.C. Sections 1002(21)(A) and 1132(a)(3)). The Fund is established and maintained by the Union and various Employers pursuant to the terms of the Collective Bargaining Agreements and Trust Indentures in accordance with Section 302(c)(5)(1) of the Taft-Hartley Act (29 U.S.C. Section 186 (c)(5)). The Fund is an employee benefit plan within the meaning of Sections 3(1), 3(2), 3(3) and 502(d)(1) of ERISA (29 U.S.C. Sections 1002 3(1), 3(2), 3(3) and 1132(d)(1)), and multi-employer plans within the meaning of Sections 3(37) and 515 of ERISA (29 U.S.C. Sections 1002(37) and 1145). Plaintiffs are Trustees of the Fund and the "plan sponsor" within the meaning of Section (3)(16)(B)(iii) of ERISA (29 U.S.C. Section 1002(16)(B)(iii)).

6. The Fund provides fringe benefits to eligible employees, retirees and their dependents on whose behalf the Employer is required to contribute to the Fund pursuant to its Collective Bargaining Agreement (hereinafter referred to as the "C.B.A.") between the Employer and the Union. The Fund is authorized to collect pension contributions on behalf of the employees of the Employers, and the Plaintiff Trustees as fiduciaries of the Fund are authorized to maintain suit as independent legal entities under Section 502(d)(1) of ERISA (29 U.S.C. Section 1132(d)(1)) and are obligated to bring actions to enforce the provisions of the C.B.A. and Trust Indentures that concern the protection of employee benefit rights.

7. The Plaintiff's principal office is located and administered at 629 Fifth Avenue, Pelham, New York 10803.

8. Upon information and belief, the defendant, Christopher Florin is the child of Mary Florin, a deceased member of the Plaintiff Pension Fund, and Defendant resides at 11-23 St. Casimir Avenue, #A405, Yonkers, New York 10701, County of Westchester.

**CAUSES FOR RELIEF**  
**AS AND FOR A FIRST CLAIM FOR RELIEF**

9. Upon information and belief, Defendant was duly notified that his parent's pension benefits would terminate on January 2006.

10. Upon information and belief, as a result of a computer error, Defendant continued to receive monthly pension payments after the termination date.

11. The total amount of overpayments to Defendant is in the aggregate sum of \$8,399.71 and Plaintiffs duly demanded payment from Defendant.

12. On or about June 2006, Defendant entered into a settlement agreement whereby Defendant agreed to pay the sums owed to the Fund in monthly installments. As of this date, Defendant has paid the sum of \$2,900.00 leaving an unpaid balance due and owing of \$5,499.71. Since 2007, Defendant was sent additional letters by the Fund Administrator herein by regular and certified mail advising him of his failure to honor the terms of the agreement and requesting remittance to avoid litigation.

13. Defendant has failed and/or refused to remit the unpaid balance of \$5,499.71.

14. Plaintiff is a multi-employer plan and the lack of these funds and unnecessary costs incurred has injured the participants of the benefit plan.

15. Under the circumstances, it is inequitable for the Defendant to retain the pension benefits. The Defendant would be unjustly enriched to the detriment of the Plaintiff Fund if the benefits were not returned.

16. Accordingly, the Defendant is liable to the Plaintiff in the amount of \$5,499.71 plus interest.

**AS AND FOR A SECOND CLAIM FOR RELIEF**

17. Plaintiff repeats, reiterates and realleges each and every allegation contained in paragraphs "1" through "16" of this Complaint as if fully set forth at length herein.

18. Section 29 USCA 1132 (g)(1) provides the court in its discretion may allow reasonable attorneys fees and costs of an action.

19. The Defendant knowingly failed to return funds that were not intended for her.

20. The Plaintiff is a benefit fund and the costs incurred in recovering the benefits unjustly received should be recovered from the Defendant.

21. Accordingly, Defendant is also liable to Plaintiff for all attorneys' fees and costs associated with this matter.


**WHEREFORE**, Plaintiffs respectfully pray for Judgment against Defendant, Patricia McAllister as follows:

- a. In the sum of \$5,499.71
- b. Attorney fees and costs pursuant to Section 29 USCA 1132 (g(1))
- c. For such other and further relief as the court deems appropriate

Dated: Elmsford, New York  
May 20, 2008

Respectfully submitted,

BARNES, IACCARINO, VIRGINIA,  
AMBINDER & SHEPHERD, PLLC

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